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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of **Whitman**
Application No. **10/010,955**
Attorney Docket No. **3556-P02472US1**
Filed: **November 13, 2001**
For: **Surgical Clamping, Cutting And Stapling Device**
Examiner: **Smith, Scott A.**
Group Art Unit: **3721**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this Correspondence is being deposited on the date identified below with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope properly addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

6/2/04
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Robin L. Dolan
Robin L. Dolan

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith a Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the references listed thereon. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the filing date of a RCE. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no fee is required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b) (3). In the event a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fees to deposit account no. 04-1406. A duplicate copy of this sheet is included for fee processing, if necessary.

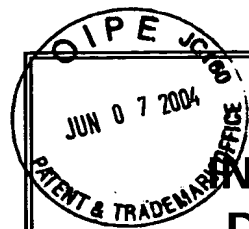
Applicants respectfully request full and proper consideration of the listed information during examination of the application, and that the listed information be printed on any patent that issues therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures - Form PTO-1449
Copies of references listed on PTO - 1449



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SHEET 1 OF 1

Complete if known

Application Number: 10/010,955

Filing Date: November 13, 2001

First Named Inventor: Whitman

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner Name: Smith, Scott A.

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P02472US1

UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
		6,616,446	09/09//2003	Schmid

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

EXAMINER'S
SIGNATURE

DATE
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.